

CAM-ROCK PARK MASTER PLAN REPORT



Prepared by the Dane County Parks Department
February 2008

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Acknowledgments

The Cambridge Foundation

Friends of Cam-Rock Park

Village of Rockdale

Village of Cambridge

Dane County Parks Department

Dane County Parks Commission



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On behalf of the Dane County Park Commission, I would like to extend a personal thank you to the Cambridge Foundation, Villages of Rockdale and Cambridge, Friends of CamRock Park, neighboring landowners and area citizens who have worked tirelessly to make this one of the County's finest parks.

William Lunney, Chair, Dane County Park Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cam-Rock Park is located in the Town of Christiana, and includes two miles of Koshkonong Creek between the Villages of Cambridge and Rockdale. Classified as a Recreation Park in the Dane County park system, the original park site was purchased in 1970, through the efforts of the Cambridge Foundation and the Dane County Parks Commission. In 2003, Dane County acquired the Smithback Mill property located on Koshkonong Creek in the Village of Rockdale. The park currently consists of approximately 440 acres of grasslands, wetlands, woodlots and developed recreation areas. From a recreation standpoint, the park is perhaps best known for its Class 3 mountain bike trails that draw riders from all across the state.

The vision of this plan is to enhance and expand upon the existing facilities that allow users to experience and appreciate the natural beauty of the creek and its environs, while providing opportunities for both passive and active recreational activities. Planning objectives included:

- Exploration of future recreational areas for the park
- Improving the connectivity between Cam-Rock 1, 2 and 3
- Development of the former Rockdale Mill Property and acquisition of trail easements for connections
- Exploration of regional trail linkages, both by land and water, to trails north and south of the park

The planning process to complete this master plan began in November of 2004 and included a number of public meetings through August of 2005 to discuss future development plans for both the park and the recently acquired mill site. The final recommended master plan was not prepared until later in 2007 to allow Dane County Parks additional time to work with the Village of Rockdale and area residents on future plans for the mill property and lands immediately to the north.

Major park development recommendations within this plan include three bicycle-pedestrian bridges over the creek to improve connectivity between existing park trails and shelter areas. These bridges will also provide key linkage between the Villages of Cambridge and Rockdale, as well as to other state regional trails. The plan also recommends development of a CamRock 4 area that includes a future dog exercise area to address reoccurring concerns regarding encounters with off leash dogs in the park. A conceptual mill site development plan is included with a list of recommended improvements to the site.

Four acquisition recommendations are identified to provide future lands for park facility development and protect water quality of Koshkonong Creek.

Introduction

Classified as a Recreation Park in the Dane County park system, Cam-Rock Park is located in the Town of Christiana, along two miles of Koshkonong Creek between the villages of Cambridge and Rockdale. The concept of this park was conceived almost 40 years ago when members of the Cambridge Foundation began talking to private landowners about the possibility of selling their land for the purpose of creating a park. The first parcel was purchased in 1970, through the efforts of the Cambridge Foundation in conjunction with the Dane County Parks Commission. The park currently consists of over 400 acres of grasslands, wetlands, recreation areas and land and water trails. There are three distinct areas to the park, known locally as Cam-Rock 1,2 and 3, each with a shelter, picnic and play area and a variety of trails. Cam-Rock is fast becoming a statewide destination for mountain biking due to the class 3 single-track trails located at Cam-Rock 3. With the recent acquisition of the Mill property in Rockdale, the opportunity to expand the vision and regional presence of the park is a priority for the citizens of Rockdale and Cambridge and the County.

The vision of this plan is to enhance and expand upon the existing facilities that allow users to experience and appreciate the natural beauty of the creek and its environs, while providing opportunities for both passive and active recreational activities.

Park program objectives include:

- Exploration of future recreational areas for the park
- Improving the connectivity between Cam-Rock 1, 2 and 3
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- Exploration of regional trail linkages, both by land and water, to trails north and south of the park

Planning Process

A series of master plan public listening sessions were held with the Friends of Cam-Rock Park (FOCP), the Friends of the Rockdale Dam (FORD), the Villages of Cambridge and Rockdale and area residents from November of 2004 through January of 2005. The Draft Master Plan was presented for comment in May of 2005 at a public meeting in Cambridge. In June of 2005, the draft plan was presented to the Dane County Park Commission at Cam-Rock Shelter 1.

The Rockdale Mill is located in the Village of Rockdale and is now within the Cam-Rock Park boundary. A master plan process for the Mill property ran concurrently with the planning process for the park. Public meetings regarding desired site development of the Mill property were held on June 30th and August 15th, 2005.

The former Friends of the Rockdale Mill acted as an advisory committee to the Rockdale village board for determining design alternatives to reconstruct the mill building. Dane County Public Works prepared four different cost estimates for the Friends and Village to consider that included: demolition of the Mill building and constructing an overlook deck; weatherproofing and structurally repairing the existing building with no public access, demolition and salvage of the existing Mill building and rebuilding an open shelter, and converting the Mill building to a 4 season nature/interpretive center. The Village of Rockdale discussed the options at their regularly scheduled Board meeting in July of 2005. In August of 2005, the Friends of the Rockdale Mill met prior to the Village Board meeting to further discuss concerns/suggestions for which option to pursue for the mill. The majority of members were in favor of deconstructing the mill and salvaging as much of the structural post and beam members as possible as well as any historical artifacts/items for reuse in an open shelter that would mimic the architecture of the original mill building. The Village Board then voted in favor of this alternative (2-1) and the mill was deconstructed in March of 2006 by County staff.

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Site Inventory and Analysis

Location

Cam-Rock Park consists of 439.9 acres and is located along the Koshkonong Creek in between the villages of Cambridge and Rockdale. The Mill property was acquired by Dane County in 2003 and added to the park.

Natural Resources

Viewsheds

The varied topography of the park site affords panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and provides terrain suitable for technical mountain biking. Views to the creek are plentiful from many vantage points from within the park. From the southern points of the park, the viewsheds up the creek valley are some of the park's best attributes.



Soils

Based on the Dane County Soil Survey, soils on the site include those from the Dresden, Griswold, Grays, Kegonsa, Marsh, McHenry, Montgomery, Radford, Sable, St. Charles, Salter, Virgil, Wacousta and Whalen series. Several of these soils have severe limitations in terms of trail building and park facilities development. Although the parkland area has increased dramatically with the removal of the dam, most of the soils are still relatively hydric in nature and not suitable for land based trail development.

Hydrology

In 2000, the Rockdale Dam was breached and the 70-acre mill pond was drained. Koshkonong Creek has since been relocating its channel through the mudflats. The mudflats were seeded with winter wheat and some wetland species within a few weeks of dam removal. Removal of the dam also allowed for the numerous springs throughout the park to be mapped and recorded.



Originally, Dane County Parks, the DNR and Federal Fish and Wildlife Service Staff had thought that tributary feeder creeks from springs in the mudflats could be dredged to provide gamefish spawning areas. It was also discussed whether the mudflats could be cultivated and seeded

with wetland species to create wet prairie areas. Since the removal of the dam, staff has revisited the site and conducted field surveys of the creek and mudflats. It now appears that the diversity of the wetland species present from initial seeding efforts and the native seed bank do not warrant a total reseeding of the entire area. The DNR and Fish and Wildlife Service also no longer think that dredging the tributaries back to their individual springs would be beneficial based on fish shocking data and the opinion that these areas, if dredged, would enhance rough fish populations.

In June of 2005, Fish and Wildlife Service, the DNR, County and Village of Rockdale staff met at the park to further discuss the mill site and mudflats from a vegetative/hydrologic viewpoint. It was the opinion of the DNR and Fish and Wildlife Staff that the creek was slowly re-establishing its original meander. It was also discussed that the areas containing seepage springs had some high quality and diverse wetland species surrounding them and should not be disturbed. Creation of scrapes was thought to be better accommodated in large

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monotypic plant communities (such as reed canary grass) away from trails and park development in order to isolate waterfowl from daily park users. The exact locations of scrapes should be field verified with County and Fish and Wildlife Staff prior to construction. As the creek continues to cut its original channel, the adjacent mudflats will continue to dry out to various degrees depending on proximity to seepage springs. Vegetation restoration efforts should continue on these flats as they provide valuable water quality buffers and wildlife habitat along the creek.

Vegetation

In 1973, the first Dane County prairie planting was installed at Cam-Rock Park near the entrance to Cam-Rock 1. The prairie was named for Rosemarie Fleming, a UW-Extension Naturalist who worked with the county from 1966-1980. In 1974, a second prairie was planted at Cam-Rock 2 and thus began prairie vegetation restoration efforts within the County Parks System.

Since the 1970's, there have been several more prairie restorations within Cam-Rock park and eventually, more lands will be restored to prairie if agriculture is no longer possible and as funding allows.



Also in the late 70's, the pine stand located at Cam-Rock 2 was thinned. Two out of every three pines was cut and removed from the property. The stand consists of mostly red and scotch pines, both of which prefer more ample growing room. The drought conditions of 2005 and the increasingly cramped growing conditions are causing stress to the trees and as stressed trees are more susceptible to pine borer, a culling operation should be performed again in the near future. Further, downed trees need to be
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removed or they become habitat for the borer. Other restoration efforts at Cam-Rock 2 have included willow, buckthorn and aspen removal along the streambank, both to open up the view and to allow for grass establishment which will help control erosion. Also, the west-facing slope of the pine stand near the shelter has been cleared of brush to open up the view to the valley and the creek and to showcase the shooting stars that can be found in the woods. A prairie restoration was established within the loop formed by the park access road.

Restoration efforts at Cam-Rock 3 have included prairie restorations, brush removal, buckthorn and honeysuckle removal and clearing of the oak stands where the mountain bike trails are located. Current efforts include eradication of invading multi-flora roses as well as buckthorn and black cherry trees.

Historical and Cultural Resources

Rockdale Mill Property

Owned by Nathan and Thomas Van Horn, the Rockdale Mill was constructed in 1847 and functioned as a feed and flour mill, harnessing the power of the adjacent Koshkonong Creek. At the time of its construction, Rockdale (then known as Clinton) served people traveling between Milwaukee and the lead mines of Southern Wisconsin, as well as area farmers. Prior to the late 40's the mill was primarily a grist mill – where grain was ground into flour. Then, the original millstones were removed and the mill continued to function as a feed mill. Water would enter the flume at the north end of the mill and turn two large turbines – the horizontal wooden waterwheels that were underneath the mill. .



Because of the frequency of repairs to the waterwheels and the danger involved in those repairs, the mill was converted to electrical operation in 1956. In addition

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to grinding grain for farmers, the mill also sold commercial feeds, feed supplements, animal medicines, bagged and liquid pesticides and fertilizers and items such as shovels, brooms and pitchforks. As thousands of people traveled through Rockdale to establish homesteads in the Midwest, the Mill continued to serve the community until 1998. Dane County purchased the mill property and buildings in 2003 and finalized the parkland connection between Cambridge and Rockdale – allowing for the potential completion of a commuter trail that would connect both communities.

In 2003, the building was assessed for potential rehabilitation or salvage and the concurrent formation of the Friends of Rockdale Mill sought to preserve the historical significance of the Mill property. The two warehouses that accompanied the mill building were removed in 2004 and the property was fenced and gated. After much discussion and research in 2005, the Village of Rockdale Board eventually voted to deconstruct the mill building and Dane County Parks operation staff salvaged and dismantled the structure.

Railroad History

The Northwestern Railroad line connected Cambridge and London to Janesville and Madison in the late 1800's . A spur called the Cannonball Express was planned to connect Clinton (Rockdale's previous name) to Cambridge for the purpose of transporting the products of the carding mill in Rockdale to Janesville



for finishing. However, the constructed spur was only built between London and Cambridge and was used to transport school children between the two communities. Portions of the grade necessary to build the railroad to Clinton were constructed, but the tracks were never laid down. This railroad grade is

still visible today in portions of the park and will be used to construct the Rockdale/Cambridge bicycle/pedestrian commuter trail.

Reasons for the lack of completion of the full spur were mostly political and the concurrent advent of the Civil War.

Beer Cave

Along the abandoned railroad grade southeast of Cam-Rock shelter 3 can be found what's locally known as the "Beer Cave". The cave became part of Cam-Rock Park due to a 3 acre land donation from the Wrolstad family in 1994. In 1865, Ole Jacobson completed construction of his Rockdale brewery and the beer cellar, which was used for storage of the brewery products in the summer. The cellar was constructed of limestone rock from local quarries and consists of three chambers. The walls are three feet thick and the roof is over four feet thick. The brewery itself was constructed from bricks fired in a local kiln owned and operated by Matthew Richardson. The brewery was eventually converted into a creamery and the beer cave/cellar was no longer used for storage.

A personal history of the area, written by Frances Niederer in 1966, describes the later use of the beer cave as a warming hut – used by people skating in the winter on the millpond. During the time that her family owned the land, testing of the soil of the surrounding hillside was conducted via blasting, and this caused the back chamber of the beer cave to collapse. Since its use as a warming hut, the beer cave has fallen into disrepair and is currently inaccessible.

At the time of this report, there are no recorded archeological resources on site.

Existing Recreational Uses and Facilities

There are three shelter buildings located in the park. All are standard open shelters and each shelter area includes restroom facilities. There is a fireplace in the Cam-Rock 2 shelter and the Cam-Rock 3



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shelter was originally built to be used year round with the use of removable side walls. However the side walls have not been used for several years. Each of the Cam-Rock shelter locations also has an adjacent playground area.

The principal recreational use of the park is mountain biking. The park is also utilized for cross-country skiing, hiking and dog walking by area residents. Removal of the dam has allowed for an increase in canoeing and kayaking opportunities as well. There is strong interest in creating a more established and



identifiable water trail that would span between the villages of Cambridge and Rockdale, and potentially beyond. There is also great interest in providing a bicycle pedestrian trail linkage from the Glacial Drumlin State Trail to the village of Cambridge, and ultimately to Rockdale via CamRock Park. These “ecotourism”

opportunities are anticipated to spur a renewed interest in public perception of these communities as a recreation destination.

The rock wall below the dam provided a popular shore fishing spot for years. Since the removal of the dam, bank fishing still continues to be popular along the creek by area residents. Catfish, walleye, carp, suckers, and bluegill are all reportedly caught by anglers fishing along the creek. Access to the popular fishing areas in the park should be provided and encouraged.

Snowmobile access through the park has long been a topic of discussion. During the planning process, it was determined by the local snowmobile club that the springs located throughout the park would prohibit access by trail groomers for preparing trails for use by snowmobiles. This plan recommends improvements to

the CTH B bridge in the Village of Rockdale and provision of a snowmobile parking area at the mill site to improve existing parking and trail conditions.

Skating on the Mill Pond was also a past recreational use before the dam was removed. Discussion of again accommodating skating at the park can be found under the Mill site recommendations section.

Plan Recommendations

Parkland Development

The master plan recommends a number of park-wide improvements to be made. Two panel kiosks will be placed throughout the park. Each trailhead kiosk will contain information regarding self-registration, park rules and a park map. The intent of the kiosk replacement is to clarify and consolidate park information into an easy to understand format.

Another park-wide improvement will be to stripe any existing crosswalks or places where park trails cross motor vehicle access points. Presently, trails crossings are indicated by typical DOT signage and the crosswalk itself is not readily apparent. By striping trail crossings, it is anticipated that user conflict can be minimized and bicycle and pedestrian safety improved. This will be especially important when the Rockdale/Cambridge multi-use trail is completed as it is expected that trail usage will significantly increase.

Cam-Rock 1 Improvements

Recommendations include placing a bench and “You are Here” signage at the existing bridge that crosses the Koshkonong Creek north of Cam-Rock 1. In addition, the wooden bridge also north of Cam-Rock 1 but south of the existing pedestrian bridge should be widened to accommodate mowers.

One of the most recent and significant improvements to the park, made possible by the Cambridge Foundation, was the addition of the bridge that spans Koshkonong Creek at the end of the existing railbed south of Cam-Rock 1. This bridge was completed in March of 2007 and will connect Cam-Rock 1 with the west side of the park, allowing off-street access to Cam-Rock 3 for the first time. In addition, another bridge is recommended slightly northwest of the shelter building at Cam-Rock 1 that will connect this area of the park with the new neighborhoods developing in Cambridge.

The Shelter building should be renovated by removing some of the sidewalls to “open up” the shelter to take advantage of the surrounding views and to provide more light internally. The swings at the playground should be replaced and when the remaining equipment is ready to be updated, it should be replaced with materials that aesthetically fit the surroundings and the environment of the park.



Additional benches should be added along the trails at points of interest and where panoramic views across the creek exist. Two such locations are on the trail that originates at the shelter and runs parallel to the creek.

Cam-Rock 2 Improvements

A gate will be added to the first parking area to allow for seasonal closing options. This gate will still allow for parking near the trailhead for cross-country skiing and hiking during the off season. The trailhead will be marked with a 2-

panel kiosk installed with park rules and a location map. A kiosk containing a “You are Here” map will be added near the shelter parking area.



The existing fire ring will be moved to the northwest, closer to the creek bank and trees cleared from the area to provide a vista point from which to view the creek and opposite side of the park.

Cam-Rock 2 is also the site of another bridge placement. This bridge will be located slightly southwest of the existing lower parking lot and will span the creek creating access from Cam-Rock 2 to Cam-Rock 3. It is not within the viewshed of the Mill site. With the addition of this bridge, all of the shelter areas will be connected via a trail and it will be possible to access all areas of the park without having to utilize County Highway B. This bridge will also significantly expand the trail system within the park. This plan does not recommend creation of a trail between Cam-Rock 2 and the Mill property on the east side of the creek or throughout the recently created mudflat areas. These large open grassland areas are best suited for streambank buffers, wildlife habitat, and long natural views through the park.

Cam-Rock 3 Improvements

The existing trailhead signage at Cam-Rock 3 will be replaced with a kiosk and relocated to the eastern edge of the parking lot. The new two-panel kiosk will provide a self-registration option, park maps and park information.

The shelter at Cam-Rock 3 will be renovated to take advantage of the surrounding viewshed. Specifically, the interior ceiling and rafters will be sanded and stained and the rafters enclosed in plexiglass. The shelter walls on the east side will be opened up to the view of the valley. The fire ring on the hillside adjacent to the shelter will be relocated to take advantage of the view and a bench will be added. Benches will also be added to the playground area.



The beer cave located along the old railbed will be made accessible via an ADA path from the commuter trail. Interpretive panels will be placed at the entry to the

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cave depicting the history and use of the beer cave and surrounding area. It is recommended that Dane County Parks investigate further restoration of the interior of the beer cave for potential future access. Interpretive signage regarding the history of the railroad grade will be placed along the Cambridge/Rockdale commuter trail.

Cam-Rock 4 Improvements

It is proposed that an area north of Cam-Rock 3 and on the west side of the creek be designated Cam-Rock 4. This area currently is home to a prairie restoration with the remainder of the land in crop lease. Recommendations include the creation of new single-track mountain bike trails in the ravines located north and south of the prairie restoration area. In the future, a less technical trail will be added through the parcel north of Jacobson Farm Road when the cropped land is restored to prairie. A parking lot will be constructed at the end of the existing access road to provide parking for 30-40 cars and access to future trails and possibly a dog exercise area.

Proposed park development projects are presented on Appendix 1.

Mill Property Improvements

The first phase of the mill site development that included deconstruction of the original structure occurred in the spring of 2006. An intensive and accurate photo inventory and set of detailed drawings of the original structure was compiled prior to deconstruction to insure any new structure that is built could



closely mimic the original building. The mill foundation could be repaired/reconstructed to allow visitors to see how the original lower level was configured. Historic photos of the mill building and downtown Rockdale would be open for public viewing. The raceway to the north of the building that had been filled

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in could be uncovered and would provide a historical perspective of how the mill once functioned. A shelter north of the foundation would be constructed over the existing slab and possibly have the raceway incorporated into it that would serve as access to the lower level foundation. The shelter would be constructed using salvaged timbers from the mill building that are currently being stored by the parks department. The shelter area would not include restrooms. Parking would be on the west side of CTH B similar to how it occurs now, with landscaping that would prevent headlights from shining across into the residential area. A small amphitheater/public seating area would be located to take advantage of long views up the creek corridor. The amphitheater would be a combination of hard surface seating and rainwater infiltration terraces. Re-graded areas around the amphitheater and overlook area would be restored with native grasses and wildflowers and

potentially a storm water management facility. A mowed grass area immediately east of the shelter would provide for possible farm market space during the summer and snowmobile access in the winter. Access to the water would be provided via an



accessible path to the lower level behind the mill. The steep bank would have existing vegetation removed, and be reshaped and planted with native vegetation. A walkway at the toe of the slope would have benches to sit and watch the stream. A bicycle pedestrian bridge at the former dam site would provide access to the west side of the creek. This project is currently being included as a component of the CTH B bridge reconstruction project. The CTH B bridge reconstruction is being funded by Dane County, the Village of Rockdale, and some DNR grant assistance for provision of a snowmobile trail. A raingarden has been planted by the Friends north of the proposed shelter that will capture the majority of the stormwater from the site and provide ice skating possibilities in the winter. Appendix 2 presents the proposed mill site layout

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and Appendix 3 presents a conceptual cross section of future development recommendations.

Future Acquisition

There are four areas proposed for future acquisition. Two of the parcels would add to the future Cam-Rock 4 area. The first acquisition is a 30-acre parcel north of the access road and on the east side of Highland Drive. Dane County Parks has already purchased the development rights from this 30-acre parcel (2001), however acquiring fee title to the property would allow for public access and the property would be developed into an off-leash dog park. The second recommended acquisition is approximately 80 acres, directly north of the proposed mountain bike trail addition and pet exercise area at Cam-Rock 4. This acquisition project would allow for future prairie restoration that would improve and protect the water quality of Koshkonong Creek and a tributary stream. A small portion of this property is also needed to create the proposed trail between Cam-Rock 1 and the Village of Cambridge.

The third acquisition is the former mill impoundment. Dane County Parks acquired the former mill impoundment from the Smithback family in 2006. Due to the history of the impoundment, questions regarding title along the southeastern boundary of the impoundment still exist. Property owners along the southeastern boundary are encouraged to contact Dane County Parks to resolve the issue.

The remaining recommended acquisition project is the parcel immediately north of the public right of way on the west side of the creek in Rockdale. The acquisition of this parcel would allow for the commuter trail to extend from the park to the Rockdale Mill Property and Village Center. Dane County Parks only purchases property from willing landowners.

In addition to areas proposed for County acquisition, this master plan also recommends areas northeast of the park for consideration of preservation by the Village of Cambridge. These green corridors would allow public park access for

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the future western neighborhoods in Cambridge and provide vegetative buffers to Koshkonong Creek tributary ditches.

Action Plan

Immediate: 1 – 3 Years

Park

Phase I of the master plan recommendations includes improvements to all park signage and the addition of kiosks, adding the bridge that would connect Cam-Rock 1 to the west portion of the park and upgrading the shelters. All trail crossings would also be improved with the addition of signage and striping. The water trail from Cambridge to Rockdale would also be cleared and improved. Construction of the Rockdale/Cambridge Multi-Use Trail would occur in coordination with the bridge development between CamRock 1 and 2.

Mill Site

Dane County and the Village of Rockdale have already worked together with an area Contractor to remove the storage buildings along CTH B. The mill building was deconstructed in March of 2006 and Dane County is storing salvaged timbers that can be reused for construction of a future shelter. Additional site development will include an accessible walk to the lower level, canoe launch, sidewalks and gated internal access roads, construction of a parking area along CTH B, landscaping and raingardens.

Pending: 3-5 Years

Park

This phase includes the creation of the new technical mountain bike trails at Cam-Rock 4, increasing the areas of prairie restoration and the addition of the bridge that would connect Cam-Rock 3 with Cam-Rock 2. The beer cave and railroad interpretive signage would be installed during this phase as well as the addition of the most northern bridge that would connect the new neighborhoods west of the park with Cam-Rock Park. A partnership with the Village of

Cambridge, local developers and Dane County Parks should be pursued for implementation of this bridge project.

Mill Site

Phase two development of the Mill site will include construction of a small shelter and most likely be dependent on the County and stakeholders ability to secure outside funds. (grants, donations, etc.) The shelter would be open and mimic the original mill building structure and include interpretation of structural components of the mill building and the mill site. A kiosk would be located near the shelter building. The shelter area would also include a drinking fountain and hose bib for seasonal maintenance. (watering plants, flooding skating area) A primary function of the shelter area would be a trailhead/gateway to the park from the Village center, that would allow users to learn about the history of the mill site and stop to rest between regional trail rides. (hikers, bikers, canoeists, kayakers) A bridge would be installed from the embankment of the dam west to the public right of way across the creek. If future acquisition allows, a trail would be constructed north into the park on the west side of the creek.

Village Greenway

The Village of Rockdale has expressed interest in taking a lead role to manage and maintain the lands immediately north of the Mill site and behind the private residences. (See Appendix 4.) Their vision for these lands includes native garden plantings along the creek with a potential natural surface walking trail that would connect CamRock shelter area two with the mill site. Development and maintenance of the hiking trail and plantings would be the responsibility of the Village. Dane County Parks would need to approve the alignment and connection location of this



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trail to existing county trails within the park. Development of a public walking trail would require the Village to work with private landowners to resolve remaining land ownership issues on the former Smithback mill pond property. Dane County's role would be to potentially assist with funding for any remaining land acquisition necessary along the creek. (This program area is envisioned to be a Village initiative and is not included in the Action Plan.) The Village and County would also need to work jointly to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that would address acquisition, development and maintenance issues for the Village Greenway lands.

CAM-ROCK ACTION PLAN

Park Projects

TASK	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	PROJECT SCOPE	COMMENTS/COST
Addition of Kiosks to CR 2 and Cambridge trailhead	Immediate	DCP	Construct and install two (2) panel kiosks with concrete pads	\$4000 material
Stripe crosswalks	Immediate	DCP	Stripe trail crossings at CR1	\$200 material
Bridge from CR1 to CR 3	Immediate	DCP/Cambridge Foundation	Install a bridge over the creek at the terminus of the RRbed at CR1	<u>Completed</u> <u>March 2007</u>
Trail Signage	Immediate	DCP	Install five 'You are Here' maps at locations throughout the park	\$1500 for sign fabrication
Water Trail Clearance	Immediate	FOCP/Capitol Water Trails	Clear brush and downed vegetation from the creek	\$200 equipment and supplies
Develop Rockdale/Cambridge Multi-Use Trail	Immediate	DCP	Pending Implementation Of Bridge(s) and Acquisition	\$15,000 material cost, labor provided by DCP staff
Install new technical mountain bike trails at CR4	Pending	DCP/WORBA	Create new trails on either side of the ravine	\$300 equipment and supplies
Install new mountain bike trails south of CR 4 parking lot	Pending	DCP/WORBA	Coordinate trail development with establishment of prairie.	\$200 equipment and supplies
Prairie Restoration	Pending	DCP/FOCP	Convert leased crop field to native prairie	Cost dependent on volunteer seed collecting efforts

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Bridge from CR3 to CR2	Pending	DCP	Bridge would connect CR2 to trail on west side of creek	\$90,000 contracted
Interpretive signage	Pending	DCP	Installed near Beer Cave and old RR bed	\$2500 design and sign fabrication
Bridge from CR1 to Cambridge's western neighborhoods	Pending	DCP/Developer/Cambridge	Install a bridge and boardwalk to allow new neighborhoods northwest of the park access to the park	\$100,000 cost to be shared between partners, amounts to be determined
Bridge from Rockdale Mill Property to west side of creek	Pending	DCP	This bridge would span the creek at the location of the old Rockdale Dam	\$120,000 contracted
Reconstruction of CTH B Bridge in Rockdale	2008-09	DOT	Add 10' wide sidewalk to side of bridge that can accommodate snowmobiles	

Mill Site Projects

TASK	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	PROJECT SCOPE	COMMENTS/COST
Deconstruction of Mill Building	completed	DCP/Village of Rockdale	Inventory, deconstruct, salvage as necessary	
Reconstruct Foundation/Trailhead	Immediate	DCP/Village of Rockdale	Construct weather/vandal proof foundation	\$50,000 combination of DCP/contracting
Pavement/Roads/Sidewalks	Immediate	DCP/Village of Rockdale	Install parking, paths, patios. More detailed site development plans will need to be prepared.	\$30,000 contracting and materials

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Excavation, Grading, Landscaping, Amphitheater	Immediate	DCP/Village of Rockdale	DCP will take a lead role for this task	\$40,000 contracting and materials
Construct Open Shelter/Trailhead Area	Pending	DCP/Village of Rockdale	Architectural, Engineering, Contracting will be overseen by Dane County	\$100,000

Conclusion

Implementation of the bridge recommendations found in this plan will greatly expand recreation opportunities with very little impact to the natural environments throughout the park. As the Rockdale/Cambridge multi-use trail is developed, the park should become a popular bicycling destination for area residents and regional cyclists using the Glacial Drumlin State Trail. It is critical that the development of the Mill property conveys the rich history of this more than a century old site.

Perhaps one of the best resources the park has to offer for all user groups are outstanding views up and down the Koshkonong Creek corridor. These lands also provide wildlife habitat and natural water quality buffers to the stream and springs and should remain undeveloped to maintain the integrity of the park.

This master plan is meant to serve as a guide for future acquisition and orderly development of the park. Additional detailed construction drawings will still need to be prepared for many of the recommendations found within this plan. As the park and use continue to grow over the next 5-10 years, the plan should be revisited and amended as necessary to reflect current trends and conditions.